

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

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Also serving the cities of:

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WEST NILE VIRUS FOUND IN NEW AREAS OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

The 2006 West Nile Virus (WNV) season is heating up. West Nile Virus has been detected in mosquitoes and birds in new county areas. The new areas include the City of Needles, Upland and Hinkley. Mosquitoes were collected by the San Bernardino County Public Health Department Vector Control Program, near the Needles Sewer Treatment Plant and on the Colorado River and were tested and found positive for WNV on 7/28/06 and 8/14/06. Two birds collected in Upland, a Scrub Jay from the 1600 block of North First Avenue, and a crow from the 700 block of North Spruce Street, tested positive for WNV on 8/14/06 and 8/16/06 respectively. A Western Screech Owl collected in the High Desert area of Hinkley on 8/1/06 in the 36700 block of Hinkley Road tested positive for WNV on

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8/14/06. A crow collected from the 9300 block of Palmetto Avenue in Fontana tested positive for WNV on 8/17/06. This is the second bird found in the Fontana area to test positive for WNV this year.

The Center for Vector-Borne Diseases at the University of California at Davis conducts tests to identify the presence of WNV in dead birds and mosquitoes. No human cases of WNV have been reported this season in San Bernardino County.

This is the first season that the West Nile Virus has covered such a large area, from the Colorado River to the west end of San Bernardino County. The High Desert and the Mountains have now been added this year to areas where WNV has been discovered. This will add to the costly and daunting challenge for controlling WNV for the San Bernardino County Vector Control Program (SBCVCP) staff as this is the largest area that any vector control district in California must cover. A grant for \$60,000 recently awarded to the SBCVCP included in Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's 2006-2007 budget to supplement resources for local mosquito control districts will help in the efforts to mitigate the threat of WNV transmission to the citizens of San Bernardino County.

San Bernardino County Vector Control Program will continue to trap adult mosquitoes for virus testing purposes in the areas where WNV positives were found and Vector Control staff will continue to canvass these areas, looking for and treating mosquito-breeding sources. The SBCVCP will continue surveillance and treatment throughout the County for WNV.

County Residents must keep their guard up when it comes to reducing mosquito breeding sources as the WNV threat can continue well into the fall and early winter months. It is important that County

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residents understand how to protect themselves from mosquitoes and West Nile Virus so they can enjoy outdoor activities. County residents can **Fight the Bite by following the 5 Ds:**

- Drain or Dump...**Remove all standing water around your property where mosquitoes lay eggs such as birdbaths, green swimming pools, ponds, old tires, buckets, clogged gutters, or even puddles from leaky sprinklers.

- Dawn and Dusk...**Avoid spending time outside when mosquitoes are most active.

- Dress...**Wear shoes, socks, and long pants and long-sleeved shirts that are loose fitting and light colored.

- DEET...**Apply insect repellent containing DEET according to manufacturer's directions.

- Doors...**Make sure doors and windows have tight-fitting screens. Repair or replace screens that have tears or holes to prevent mosquitoes from entering home.

If you have questions or concerns or if there is a significant mosquito problem where you live or you have standing water or green pools in your area, call San Bernardino County Vector Control Program at 800-44-ABATE (800-442-2283) or 909-388-4600. If you are in the cities of Chino, Chino Hills, Ontario, Montclair or Rancho Cucamonga call (909) 635-0307 for West Valley Vector Control District.

You may also visit our website at www.sbcounty.gov/dehs/vectorcontrol or the California Health Services West Nile website at www.westnile.ca.gov for more information on Vector Control or West Nile Virus. To report dead birds call the California Department of Health Services at 1-877-WNV-BIRD (968-2473) or report on line at www.westnile.ca.gov.

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